

## FIRING ON TIEN-TSIN.

### Chinese Attack the City and Foreign Fleets Send Relief.

#### OUR CONSULATE DESTROYED.

#### Washington Opinion That This May Be Regarded as a Declaration of War.

Admiral Kempf's Report Says Relief Force Includes 150 Americans—Previous Reports Said Allied Force Was Waiting Reinforcement Before Proceeding to Tien-Tsin—Unsettled Over the Lack of Confirmation of the Report That Admiral Seymour's Column Has Reached Peking—More Rumors at Shanghai of Massacres in the Chinese Capital—Paris Government More Hopeful of the Situation—None of the Powers Relaxes in the Preparations for Sending Larger Forces to China.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—An official despatch received here this afternoon from Rear Admiral Kempf, commanding the American squadron at Taku, China, is interpreted by officials to mean that the Chinese Government has committed a hostile act which is practically a declaration of war against the United States and other nations. Admiral Kempf says that the American consulate at Tien-Tsin has been destroyed by a bombardment and this is taken to mean that the Chinese Imperial Army conducted the shelling, as the Boxers are supposed to be without big guns, or, if they had them, are not capable of using them. Admiral Kempf's despatch, addressed to the Secretary of the Navy, is as follows:

"Taku, via Chefoo, June 21.—Tien-Tsin being bombarded. American consulate and much of foreign concessions destroyed. Relief on route, including 150 Americans in command Major Waller."

James W. Ragdale of California is the United States Consul at Tien-Tsin. He was appointed to the consulate on Sept. 17, 1897. The other officers of the consulate are Sylvester G. Hill of Washington State, vice-consul, and Bertrand Ragdale of California, marshal. Consul Ragdale is supposed to have his family with him in Tien-Tsin.

The commander of the relief column sent to Tien-Tsin by Admiral Kempf is Major Littleton W. T. Waller of the Marine Corps, who was assigned by Admiral Remy to the command of the detachment of 100 marines sent week on the Solace to assist Admiral Kempf. Major Waller is a Virginian, who has been in the Marine Corps just twenty years. The fact that a marine officer is in command of the column indicates that all of the 150 men are marines, as it is customary to put a naval officer in command of a shore detachment which includes bluejackets.

No news of importance other than Kempf's despatch has been received by the Government. The statement printed in New York that the President has news that all the foreigners in Peking had been massacred and that Tien-Tsin is being bombarded by warships is denounced as a fake at the White House and in other official quarters. The seriousness of the situation is realized by the officers of the Administration, and none of them is willing to be quoted as to the probable outcome of the bombardment of Tien-Tsin, with its destructive effects on the American Consulate and the foreign quarter. Further advice are deemed necessary to justify action that would be tantamount to a declaration of war against China, but it is regarded as certain that more American troops will be sent to Taku. At this writing it is not possible to outline the policy of the Government. That will probably be determined within the next few days. Should the situation at Peking and Tien-Tsin be as the Government suspects, the President may deem it necessary to call an extra session of Congress to devise means of giving better protection to American interests in China and to determine whether a state of war involving the United States exists.

Admiral Remy telegraphed the Navy Department to-day that the naval transport Zafro had left Cavite for Hong Kong with about 180 men for the battleship Oregon. The Zafro will take four days for the run to Hong Kong, and it will be at least a week before the big armor-clad can reach Taku, whither she was ordered this week. She was short in her crew and the additional men were necessary to work the vessel. It is supposed that the Department that the Zafro will be landed at Taku. The supply ship Iris left Manila to-day for Taku with enough provisions and other stores to last 800 men for three months. The training ship Buffalo, whose 400 men are to be transferred to the American warships on the Asiatic station, left Southampton, England, for Gibraltar to-day on her way to Manila. The gunboat Don Juan de Austria, which is visiting Chinese ports where American interests may require protection, arrived at Canton yesterday. Admiral Remy has decided not to send the cruiser New Orleans to Taku. He telegraphed the Navy Department this morning that she has been directed to take station off the north coast of Luzon.

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reports about danger to foreign Ministers could not be true. He told the Secretary of State that he had word from the Viceroy of Nanking, who said that he would be able to answer for the safety of foreigners and missionaries and the preservation of peace and order in the three great provinces of the Yangtze-Kiang. What these provinces are could not be learned. The map shows that Nanking is near the coast and not far from Shanghai, while the Yangtze-Kiang River flows through the provinces of Kiangsu, Nanking and Szechuen. Other provinces adjoining are the Hupeh and Homan.

#### PEKIN STILL CUT OFF.

Unsettled About the Fate of Foreign Representatives There Not Much Aligned.

#### Special Cable Despatches to THE SUN.

LONDON, June 21.—There is still a disquieting absence of authentic news from Peking and also concerning Admiral Seymour's force. The uneasiness is increased by Admiral Kempf's message to the American Navy Department. His reference to the despatch of a relief party to Tien-Tsin is interpreted in some quarters as meaning that events have forced the hands of the allies, compelling them to move without waiting for the reinforcements that are considered necessary. By many the divergence in Admiral Bruce's and Admiral Kempf's despatches, which were apparently transmitted from Taku on the same day, is regarded as furnishing a hope that the American Admiral was misled by a native rumor, as the Japanese officers were the other day, and that the situation is less serious than Admiral Kempf believed.

This is Admiral Bruce's despatch: "Taku, via Chefoo, June 21.—There has been no communication with Admiral Seymour for seven days nor with Tien-Tsin for five days. The allies hold the Taku force and Tongku securely. They will advance to the relief of Tien-Tsin when sufficient strength. Troops are expected from Hong Kong to-morrow and 800 from Wei-Hai-Wei on June 23."

"It is believed that fighting is constantly going on around Tien-Tsin. Our garrison there should be 5,000."

"The following proclamation was agreed on this morning and will be issued immediately:

"The Admirals and senior naval officers of the allied Powers in China desire to make known to all Viceroy and authorities on the coast and rivers, and in the cities and provinces of China that they intend to use armed force only against the Boxers and other people who oppose them on the march to Peking for the rescue of their fellow-countrymen."

In the House of Commons this afternoon, Under Foreign Secretary Brodrick said he regretted to say that there was no authentic information from China. The last communication from Sir Claude Macdonald, the British Minister, was received nine days ago. Admiral Seymour's force, when last heard of seven days ago, was some thirty or forty miles northwest of Tien-Tsin and about the same distance from Peking.

A despatch to a news agency from Yokohama says there is a generally discredited rumor in circulation that the foreign Ministers at Peking have been murdered and that Admiral Seymour, commander of the allied naval forces, is dead. The despatch also says that it is probable that the whole of the Hiroshima Chinese division, which is commanded by Gen. Fukushima, will be wiped out shortly.

The Russian cruiser Burik has arrived at Yokohama with the new Russian Minister to Japan aboard. She will leave for Taku to-day. A force of British bluejackets has been landed at Woo-Sung to protect the telegraph station, but as no signs of danger were found the men were reembarked.

It is noteworthy that the situation is viewed in official quarters in Paris and Berlin with a certain degree of optimism. M. Delcasse, the French Foreign Minister, in a declaration in the Chamber of Deputies, contended that there was absolutely nothing to justify the alarming reports of the last few days, while officials in Berlin do not conceal their disposition to believe that the foreign envoys in Peking will be found to be safe. These hopeful views, however, do not affect the governments' preparations to strengthen their forces in China. Germany's decision to send out two naval batteries with a total of about 2,200 men, involves the greatest undertaking of the kind that she has yet attempted, but all the departments are working together with characteristic exactness and the men will be ready in a few days.

The coincidence of the death of Count Muraviev, the Russian Foreign Minister, occurring at the very height of the crisis, with which he was supposed to be particularly associated, is remarked by the press as having a grim dramatic appearance. The comments are generally tinged with the incredible suspicion and mistrust with which all the acts of Russian politicians and diplomats are viewed here. Englishmen, it is contended, cannot without affectation, pretend that Count Muraviev had any friends here for their country, and they cannot easily forget the series of doubtful transactions connected with the occupation of Port Arthur and Tientsin by Russia or the curious laxity with which Count Muraviev treated solemn undertakings.

A despatch to the Times from Shanghai says that steamers which left Taku after the bombardment of the forts there by the foreign fleet have arrived at Shanghai. Their officers report that the Boxers caused great destruction on the night of June 15 in the native city of Tien-Tsin in the presence of the foreign troops, who, however, were sufficiently strong to protect the foreign settlement. The torpedo boat destroyer Whiting has arrived at Chefoo from Taku. She has an unexploded Chinese shell in one of her boilers. She is going to Nacassau to repair.

SHANGHAI, June 21.—The British torpedo boat destroyer Whiting has arrived at Chefoo. Her commander reports that nothing has been heard from Admiral Seymour's International force in six days.

VIENNA, June 21.—Official advice received from Tokyo say that one hundred officers and men who were wounded at Taku were conveyed to the Japanese marine depot at Said, where they were cared for by the surgeons and nurses of the Red Cross Society.

## FILIPINOS WANT PEACE.

### LEADERS OF THE BEATEN FORCES NOW TRY TO MAKE TERMS.

Meet at Manila With Aguinaldo's Approval and Prepare a Statement of Their Desires to Be Submitted to Gen. MacArthur—Later Issues His Amnesty Proclamation—Captured Generals Liberated for Half a Day That They May Attend the Conference.

#### Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

MANILA, June 21.—A series of conferences between the Filipino leaders and Gen. MacArthur and the Philippine Commission resulted in the assembling to-day of 200 of the most influential Filipinos, including ex-Ministers of Aguinaldo's Cabinet and military officers who had legislated and fought against the Americans, and thirty prisoners, who had been liberated for half a day to take part in the meeting. Among the latter were Generals Montenegro, Del Pilar, Garcia, Torres, Macabulos and Lukban.

The meeting was held at Carmen, the residence of Senor Paterno. The element favorable to the Americans was conspicuously absent. Three hours were devoted to the discussion of an arrangement to bring about dignified and honorable peace. Finally a scheme comprising seven propositions, subject to Aguinaldo's approval, was unanimously adopted and will be presented to Gen. MacArthur.

This scheme includes, first, a general amnesty by both the Americans and Filipinos, second, the return of confiscated property, third, the provision of offices for Filipino general officers in the new militia, fourth, the use of sufficient revenue of the islands to relieve the distress of the impoverished people, fifth, a guarantee of personal rights according to the American Constitution, sixth, the establishment of civil government at Manila and in the provinces, and seventh, the expulsion of the friars.

The spirit of the assembly was apparent, since the members believe that Aguinaldo will abide by their decision. Senor Paterno declared: "All failing to observe the mandates issued from this chair, which is backed by Aguinaldo, are criminal traitors."

This was the first general meeting of Filipinos since the fall of Manila. There were numerous heated debates and the discussion was confined to excluding political discussions. All those who took part in the meeting were in favor of peace.

President Taft of the Philippine Commission, speaking of the meeting said: "These people deal in glittering generalities. They are unable to grasp details. But their attitude towards the work is an excellent indication. I hope the movement will continue, subject to necessary modifications."

Should an understanding be had with Gen. MacArthur the junta proposes to negotiate with the commission concerning a civil government.

#### AMNESTY TO FILIPINO REBELS.

##### Text of the Proclamation Issued by Gen. MacArthur at Manila To-day.

WASHINGTON, June 21.—The following notice of amnesty was promulgated by Gen. MacArthur at Manila to-day: "By direction of the President of the United States the undersigned announce amnesty with complete immunity for the past and absolute liberty of action for the future to all persons who are now or at any time since Feb. 4, 1898, have been engaged in hostilities against the United States in either military or a civil capacity, and who shall within the period of thirty days from the date hereof formally renounce all connection with such insurrection and subscribe to a declaration acknowledging and accepting the sovereignty and authority of the United States in and over the Philippines. 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